



## HAWAII STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

### News Release

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
GOVERNOR

KARL FOOKS, PRESIDENT  
Phone: (808) 587-3830  
Fax: (808) 586-2377

For Immediate Release: Aug. 21, 2013

## State Launches HI Growth CAN Program to Help Local Entrepreneurs, Investors Connect

*Kick-Off Planned at "WetWare Wednesday," Aug. 28*

HONOLULU (Aug. 21, 2013) – The Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation (HSDC) Board of Directors today approved the HI Growth CAN (Connect and Network) program, a sponsorship platform to support networking opportunities for local entrepreneurs and investors. This program is a part of the HI Growth Initiative, a \$6 million investment strategy proposed as part of the Abercrombie Administration's 2013 legislative package and signed into law on July 9 by Lt. Governor Shan S. Tsutsui.

"The HI Growth CAN program supports Hawaii's ecosystem by exposing entrepreneurs to potential customers, partners and investors on a regular basis," said HSDC Board Chairman Moore. "These activities will increase the pipeline of companies that apply for funding from our investment programs."

HI Growth CAN will be administered by the High Tech Development Corporation (HTDC). The type of events that the CAN program is designed to support include: investor pitch competitions/events, entrepreneur/technology showcases/scouting, startup events, entrepreneur/venture capital summits, and other similar events.

"This program will also help the community organize a collective calendar of key networking events in order to maximize attendance and participation," added HSDC President Karl Fooks.

HSDC will kick-off HI Growth CAN in Honolulu at HTDC's WetWare Wednesday on Aug. 28 and will also hold informational/Q&A sessions for neighbor island communities. Visit [www.hsdh.hawaii.gov](http://www.hsdh.hawaii.gov) for more information.

### **About the Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation:**

HSDC is a state agency established in 1990 to promote technology-based economic development and economic diversification in Hawaii through a return-driven investment program in partnership with private capital. HSDC manages a fund of funds investment program to co-invest with private sector investors to establish Hawaii-based investment funds. These funds, in turn, invest directly in high-growth Hawaii businesses.

###

For more information, contact:  
Dave Young, DBEDT Communications  
Phone: (808) 586-2480  
Email: [dyoung@dbedt.hawaii.gov](mailto:dyoung@dbedt.hawaii.gov)